



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/458,820	12/13/1999	WUPING DONG	FUJI-111	9320

23995 7590 02/08/2005

RABIN & Berdo, PC
1101 14TH STREET, NW
SUITE 500
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

PASS, NATALIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3626

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/458,820

Applicant(s)

DONG, WUPING

Examiner

Natalie A. Pass

Art Unit

3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6 December 2004 has been entered.

2. This communication is in response to the Request for Continued Examination and amendment filed 6 December 2004. Claims 1, 2 have been amended. Claims 5, 6 have been newly added. Claims 1-6 remain pending.

Specification

3. The amendment filed 6 December 2004 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. "New matter" constitutes any material which meets the following criteria:

a) It is added to the disclosure (either the specification, the claims, or the drawings) after the filing date of the application, and

b) It contains new information which is neither included nor implied in the original version of the disclosure. This includes the addition of physical properties, new uses, etc. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows:

- "URLs" as disclosed in claim 1, lines 12, 16, 18, and 22 and in claim 2 in lines 9, 13, 16, and 20; (for the purpose of finding art, Examiner assumes "URL" to refer to "terminal address.");
- "receiving in said local computer, the notification of completion of the booking and the booking data of the predetermined format" as disclosed in claim 1, lines 41-42.

In particular, Applicant does not point to, nor was the Examiner able to find, any support for this newly added language within the specification as originally filed on 13 December 1999. As such, Applicant is respectfully requested to clarify the above issues and to specifically point out support for the newly added limitations in the originally filed specification and claims.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

4. If Applicant continues to prosecute the application, revision of the specification and claims to present the application in proper form is required. While an application can, be amended to make it clearly understandable, no subject matter can be added that was not disclosed in the application as originally filed on 13 December 1999.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

Art Unit: 3626

pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Newly amended claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

(A) Independent claims 1 and 2 recite limitations that are new matter, as discussed above, and are therefore rejected.

(B) Claims 3-6 incorporate the features of independent claims 1 and 2 through dependency and are also rejected.

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

(A) Claim 1 appears to recite the limitation "by the user" in line 22, however the word "user" is marked for both insertion and deletion.

It is unclear whether the word "user" is being added to or deleted from the claim. For the purpose of applying art, Examiner assumes the word is newly added to the claim.

(B) Claim 1 also recites, "an issuance step fee issuing a booked ticket" in line 39.

The Examiner finds this language unclear, and for the purposes of applying art assumes this limitation to recite "an issuance step issuing a booked ticket."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1-2, 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt (U.S. Patent 5,781,892), and Garback (U.S. Patent 5,237,499) and further in view of Rangan (U.S. Patent 6,412, 073).

(A) Claim 1 has been amended to recite

- "a booking step for making a booking from said personal computer to one of said external reservation systems, said booking step including," in lines 8-9.
- "URLs (Uniform Resource Locators)" in lines 12;
- "displaying a reservation screen of the web site of the selected external reservation system" on lines 26-27;
- "completing a booking through the website, between said personal computer and the selected external reservation system" on lines 28-29;
- "notification of completion of the booking" on lines 36-37; and

- “an issuance step issuing a booked ticket by said local computer, said issuance step including: receiving in said local computer, the notification of completion of the booking and the booking data of the predetermined format” on lines 39-42.

As per these new limitations, Hunt, discloses a booking and issuing method of an intranet ticket booking and issuing system including a local computer being interconnected to external reservation systems (Hunt: computer reservation system, “CRS”, in Figure 1) which accept ticket booking requests via at least one communication line to issue the tickets booked in said external reservation systems, and a personal computer being interconnected to said local computer via a local area network and having an Internet connection function (Hunt: Figure 1, Items 12, 14 and 22, Figure 2, and column 3 lines 32-61, column 4 lines 16-28), comprising:

a booking step for making a booking from said personal computer to one of said external reservation systems (Hunt: Figure 1; column 2 lines 16-24, column 3, lines 32-61, column 4, line 52 to column 5, line 10, column 6, lines 22-40), said booking step including:

addressing a user's ticket booking commencement request to said local computer from said personal computer (Hunt: Figure 1; column 2 lines 16-24, column 3, lines 32-61, column 4, line 52 to column 5, line 10, column 6, lines 22-40);

sending terminal addresses (reads on URLs (Uniform Resource Locators)) relating to said external reservation systems and terminal addresses (reads on address information of said external reservation systems) from said local computer to said personal computer via said local area network in accordance with said ticket booking commencement request (Hunt: column 4 line 67 to col. 5 line 2; column 7 lines 5-56);

Art Unit: 3626

storing, in said personal computer, the terminal addresses (reads on URLs) sent from said local computer into a memory and displaying information corresponding to the terminal addresses (reads on URLs) relating to said external reservation systems on a screen for selection by the user (Hunt: Figure 2, column 4 lines 16-37, column 6, line 40 to column 7, line 56);

Although Hunt teaches

completing a booking between said personal computer and the selected external reservation system, by transmitting, and receiving information data including a booking number (Hunt; Figure 1, column 3, lines 32-61, column 4, line 52 to column 5, line 10, column 6, lines 22-40, column 8, lines 13-30, and column 10, lines 18-41); and

"depending upon the format desired by the user of client application 20 gateway application 22 may return data received from a computer reservation system in response to such a request to the client application 20 in either a normalized form or in the code language of the computer reservation system" (reads on "generating, in said personal computer, booking data of a predetermined format by compiling predetermined data included in the information data ") (Hunt; column 4, lines 1-9), Hunt fails to explicitly disclose

connecting said personal computer to a website of the selected external reservation system via the Internet and displaying a reservation screen of the web site of the selected external reservation system;

completing a booking through the website without the aid of said local computer via the Internet;

Art Unit: 3626

sending a notification of completion of the booking and the booking data of the predetermined format to said local computer via said local area network; and

an issuance step issuing a booked ticket by said local computer, said issuance step including:

receiving in said local computer, the notification of completion of the booking and the booking data of the predetermined format;

transmitting data including said booking number in the received booking data of the predetermined format from said local computer to the selected external reservation system via said at least one communication line ; and

issuing, by said local computer, the ticket booked in the selected external reservation system.

However, the above features are well-known in the art, as evidenced by Garback.

In particular, Garback teaches

connecting said personal computer to an airline reservation system accessed with a modem over a wide area network (reads on "website of the selected external reservation system") via a wide area network (reads on "the Internet") and "the central processing unit is in communication with the various airline CRS [computerized reservation] systems" and "the central processing unit is further programmed to display the selected flights ... to the individual ... via the display means of the terminal 22" (reads on "displaying a reservation screen of the web site of the selected external reservation system") (Garback; see at least Figure 2, column 2, lines 54-63, column 3, lines 17-42, column 4, lines 33-41, column 4, line 63 to column 5, line 40, column 5, lines 57-61);

Art Unit: 3626

completing a booking through the website, without the aid of said local computer via the Internet (Garback; see at least Figure 2, column 2, lines 54-63, column 3, lines 17-52, column 4, lines 33-41, column 4, line 63 to column 5, line 40, column 5, line 57 to column 6, line 10); and

sending a confirmation message (reads on notification of completion of the booking and the booking data of the predetermined format) to said local computer via said local area network (Garback; Figure 1, Figure 2E, Figure 4, column 3, lines 5-10, column 5, line 56 to column 6, line 10, column 6, lines 27-40, column 6, line 62 to column 7, line 30); and

an issuance step printing (reads on issuing) a booked ticket by said local computer, said issuance step including:

receiving in said local computer, a confirmation message (reads on the notification of completion of the booking and the booking data of the predetermined format) (Garback; Figure 1, Figure 2E, Figure 4, column 3, lines 5-10, column 5, line 56 to column 6, line 10, column 6, lines 27-40, column 6, line 62 to column 7, line 30);

transmitting data including said booking number in the received booking data of the predetermined format from said local computer to the selected external reservation system via said at least one communication line (Garback; Figure 1, Figure 2E, Figure 4, column 3, lines 5-10, column 5, line 56 to column 6, line 10, column 6, lines 27-40, column 6, line 62 to column 7, line 30); and

printing (reads on issuing), by said local computer, the ticket booked in the selected external reservation system (Garback; Figure 1, Figure 2E, Figure 4, column 3, lines 5-10, column 5, line 56 to column 6, line 10, column 6, lines 27-40, column 6, line 62 to column 7, line 30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hunt to include the above limitations, as taught by Garback, with the motivations of providing a computer based travel planning system which allows an individual business traveler to efficiently and effectively book an itinerary for a specified venue, such as an upcoming meeting or seminar and in addition which conforms with a preset travel policy prenegotiated by a sponsoring organization and to do so in a fraction of the time previously required to book a business reservation, thus significantly lowering the cost of corporate travel(Garback; column 2, lines 9-16, column 3, lines 47-52).

Hunt fails to explicitly disclose

receiving, in said personal computer, a selection of one of said external reservation systems by the user and reading out the URL of the selected external reservation system from said memory.

However, the above features are well-known in the art, as evidenced by Rangan.

In particular, Rangan teaches

receiving, in said personal computer, a selection of one of said external reservation systems by the user and reading out the URL of the selected external reservation system from said memory (Rangan; Figure 2, Figure 3, Abstract, column 2, lines 10-20, column 4, lines 52-60, column 5, lines 35-44).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hunt to include receiving, in said personal computer, a selection of one of said external reservation systems by the user and reading out the URL of the

Art Unit: 3626

selected external reservation system from said memory, as taught by Rangan, with the motivations of providing an interactive Internet portal that will enable users to accomplish pre-defined tasks such as navigation and interaction between web servers based on user pre-programming (user profiles) and of allowing a subscriber to safely and securely navigate to any of multiple destinations on the Internet with a single point-and-click and in this way greatly simplify on-line or network-based business transactions (Rangan; column 2, lines 1-7, column 3, lines 30-40).

(B) Claim 2 differs from claim 1 in that it is a ticket booking and issuing system rather than a ticket booking and issuing method. Claim 2 has been amended to recite

- "a plurality of external" in lines 1-2;
- "URLs" in lines 9, 13, 16, 20;
- "connecting said personal computer to a website of the selected external reservation system and displaying a reservation screen thereof on said display means" on lines 22-24;
- "notification of completion of the booking" on line 30.

As per newly amended claim 2, the amended limitations in claim 2 differ from the amended limitations in claim 1 in that, claim 1 contains a method recited as a series of function steps whereas claim 2 contains features recited in a "means-plus-function" format. As the amended method of claim 1 has been shown to be obvious in view of the combined teachings of Hunt, Garback, and Rangan, it is readily apparent that the "means" to accomplish those method

Art Unit: 3626

steps is obvious in view of the listed citations of the prior art. As such, the amended limitations recited in claim 2 are rejected for the same reasons given above for amended claim 1, and incorporated herein.

The motivations for combining the respective teachings of Hunt, Garback, and Rangan are as given in the rejection of claim 1 above and incorporated herein.

(C) As per newly added claims 5-6, Hunt, Garback, and Rangan teach a method and system as analyzed and discussed in claims 1-2 above

further comprising: a step of receiving instructions for the predetermined data format, wherein the generating step generates, in response to the instructions, booking data of a common data-format using data displayed on the reservation screen of the selected external reservation system and sends the booking data of the common data-format to said local computer via said local area network, the common data-format being a data-format common to computers connected to said local area network (Hunt; column 4, lines 1-9), (Garback; see at least Figure 2, column 2, lines 54-63, column 3, lines 17-42, column 4, lines 33-41, column 4, line 63 to column 5, line 40, column 5, line 56 to column 6, line 40, column 6, line 62 to column 7, line 30).

The motivations for combining the respective teachings of Hunt, Garback, and Rangan are as given in the rejection of claim 1 above and incorporated herein.

11. Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt (U.S. Patent 5,781,892), and Garback (5,237,499) and Rangan (6,412, 073) as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Tagawa (5,732, 398).

(A) As per claim 3, Hunt, Garback, and Rangan teach a booking and issuing method as analyzed and discussed in claim 1 above.

Hunt, Garback, and Rangan fail to explicitly disclose converting, in said local computer, the booking data received from said personal computer into data of a predetermined hypertext or Internet language to generate data for fare adjustment; and

storing the data for fare adjustment in said local computer.

However, the above features are well-known in the art, as evidenced by Tagawa.

In particular, Tagawa teaches

converting, in said local computer, the booking data received from said personal computer into data of a predetermined hypertext or Internet language to generate data for fare adjustment (Tagawa; see at least Figure 2b, Item 108, Figure 9B, Item 524, column 5, lines 6-27, column 9, lines 34-38, 59-64, column 18, line 46 to column 19, line 4); and

storing the data for fare adjustment in said local computer (Tagawa; see at least Figure 2b, Item 108, Figure 9B, Item 524, column 5, lines 6-27, column 9, lines 34-38, 59-64, column 18, line 46 to column 19, line 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hunt, Garback, and Rangan to include converting, in said local computer, the booking data received from said personal computer into data of a predetermined hypertext or Internet language to generate data for fare adjustment; and storing the data for fare adjustment in said local computer, as taught by Tagawa, with the motivations of

Art Unit: 3626

reducing the labor costs associated with the sale of travel-related services by providing an interactive electronic travel-related service system for selling travel-related services and products where the system can function like a travel agent and where various purchases and reservations are made through the Internet (Tagawa; column 1, lines 16-21, column 2, lines 33-37, column 3, lines 1-4, column 9, lines 62-64).

(B) As per claim 4, the limitations in claim 4 differ from the limitations in claim 3 in that, claim 3 contains a method recited as a series of function steps whereas claim 4 recites system elements. As the method of claim 3 has been shown to be disclosed or obvious in view of the combined teachings of f Hunt, Garback, and Rangan Tagawa, it is readily apparent that the system to accomplish those method steps is obvious in view of the listed citations of the prior art. As such, the limitations recited in claim 4 are rejected for the same reasons given above for method claim 3, and incorporated herein.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed 6 December 2004 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. The cited but not applied references DeLorme, et al., United States Patent Number 5, 948, 040, Flake, et al., United States Patent Number 5, 832, 451, Webber, et al., United States Patent Number 5, 021, 953, and Shoolery, et al., United States Patent 5, 570, 283 teach the environment of online travel reservation systems.

14. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231**

or faxed to: **(703) 305-7687.**

For informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" on the front page of the
communication and do NOT sign the communication.

After Final communications should be labeled "Box AF."
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5,
2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Seventh Floor (Receptionist).

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalie A. Pass whose telephone number is (703) 305-3980. It should be noted that during the month of April 2005, the examiner's phone number will change to (571) 272-6774, however the current phone number will remain in service until the change

Art Unit: 3626

takes place. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

16. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas, can be reached at (703) 305-9588. It should be noted that during the month of April 2005, Joseph Thomas' phone number will change to (571) 272-6776, however the current phone number will remain in service until the change takes place. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

17. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Natalie A. Pass

February 4, 2005


ALEXANDER KALINOWSKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER